

**STATE SENATOR • JIM BARCIA • 31ST DISTRICT**

# **Barcia Press Release**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **BARCIA TESTIFIES IN FRONT OF HOUSE COMMITTEE ON GREAT LAKES AND TOURISM IN SUPPORT OF HB 4257**

(LANSING)- State Senator Jim Barcia (D-Bay City) testified today in front of the House Committee on Great Lakes and Tourism in support of HB 4257, a bill to ease beachfront maintenance regulations for Michigan's waterfront property owners. The House Bill, sponsored by Rep. Brian Palmer (R-Romeo) is identical to a bill (SB 244), introduced by Senator Barcia in the Michigan Senate.

"Michigan's lakefront property owners have been allowed to groom and maintain their beachfront property for decades. The vast majority of these people are environmentally conscious individuals who care deeply about Michigan's natural resources and are committed to preserving the integrity of the shoreline," said Barcia. "The recent activities of the DEQ and Army Corps of Engineers are causing a health hazard on our beaches, hindering tourism and have the potential to erode the tax base of lakefront property."

"We have senior citizens that are being cited with heavy fines for sweeping sand off their deck at the end of winter, and families being told that their children's sand castles are a potential violation. I don't believe this was the intent of Congress when they passed the Clean Water Act in the early 1970's, nor is it what reasonable people would expect from their government's

regulatory agencies. However, that is the reality. Rep. Palmer's and my bill are simply an attempt to provide a common sense solution to what has become a serious problem."

"I have visited many of these properties and seen first hand the standing pools of water that can be a breeding ground for mosquitoes and West Nile Virus; the dying vegetation and fish that rot on the beach; and the overall damage being done to the quality of life in the area," said Barcia.

State Senator Jim Barcia represents the 31<sup>st</sup> Senate District, which includes Arenac, Bay, Huron, Sanilac, and Tuscola counties. He is a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, where he serves as Vice-Chair of the subcommittees on Agriculture, Environmental Quality, Natural Resources, and Transportation.

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